

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support LR 228. I will try to be brief. I know we are taking up a lot of time. I am also reluctant to override a decision of a committee but I think this is an important issue that we should have a careful look at. I have never been a very strong supporter of a nonpartisan legislature, and since serving here four years I am convinced that the nonpartisan part of our Legislature does not serve the state as well as it should, as well as a partisan Legislature could. 49 states have looked at Nebraska's and 49 states have decided that what we are doing here is not the proper way to go. If this was the way to go I am sure that a number of states, especially the less populous states, would have adopted our procedure if we had any evidence that it was doing the job. We had a comment about the effect of a person changing his party after he arrives in the Legislature. I don't think that makes a bit of difference. I don't think that has any bearing on the issue at all. He would still be recognized as either one party or the other and would have to be accountable. I just see no way that members of the Legislature are held accountable except on maybe one particular issue and as a result we have special interests that in many cases dictate the elections. Furthermore, just one closing comment, I believe we have partisanship here now, much more than many of you want to admit. Let's bring it out of the shadows and let's have a true partisan Legislature.

PRESIDENT: There are four members who have spoken in favor and four members who have spoken against the measure. The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: I call the question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall the House come under...shall the debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. The debate has ceased and